



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING OF THE  
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION  
WORKING GROUP  
BASSETT PARK  
510 VINELAND AVENUE  
LA PUENTE, CA 91746**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**1. Opening Remarks and Introductions. (16-5091)**

**Member Osuna served as the Presiding Member of the Town Hall meeting. Member Osuna welcomed the Town Hall attendees and requested that attendees introduce themselves on a voluntary basis. Member Osuna informed that he is a First District appointee to the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group (POCWG) appointed by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and disclosed that he is the Director of Educational Services at Homeboy Industries. Member Meredith introduced himself and indicated that he was appointed by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich from the Fifth District.**

**2. Explanation of the composition, function and responsibility of the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group. (16-4985)**

**Member Osuna informed that the purpose of the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group (POCWG) holding the Town Hall meeting is to gather the public's input relative to the formation of an Oversight Commission for the Probation Department. Member Osuna further informed that the PCOWG was established pursuant to a Board of Supervisors' (BOS) motion of February 2, 2016. The motion instructed the Chief Executive Officer to convene the PCOWG comprised of the Chief Probation Officer, County Counsel, and one appointee from each Supervisorial District. The PCOWG was charged with identifying and assessing the current landscape of entities tasked with any aspect of evaluating, monitoring and correcting the work of the Probation Department. The PCOWG is also to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a permanent Probation Oversight Commission, and include recommendations as to the oversight needed to assess juvenile and adult Probation operations effectively, or separately. The PCOWG will report back to the BOS, in writing, on the progress in advancing and achieving the goals of the motion.**

**Member Osuna informed that the POCWG has been meeting twice a month since March 2, 2016, and is in the process of finalizing its recommendations to the BOS. However, before doing so, the POCWG wanted to allow the public to provide recommendations and/or share their experiences with the Probation Department. Therefore, over the past two weeks, five Town Halls have been scheduled in each Supervisorial District, and attended by at least two members of the POCWG. Member Osuna indicated that this day's meeting is the last and final one for the POCWG. Member Osuna advised that copies of the POCWG's draft recommendations to the BOS are available for Town Hall attendees, and stressed that the draft recommendations are a Draft working document and reflects the POCWG's research and findings from presentations made to the POCWG by various entities that interact with the Probation Department. Member Osuna informed that some of the recommendations have been modified from the initial document in order to take into consideration information and insight brought forward by the public and received at the Town Halls.**

**Member Osuna invited Town Hall attendees to fill out a form to provide Public Comment to share recommendations, experiences with the Probation Department, or any other information they would like to share regarding the Probation Department.**

- 3. Review of the Working Document Draft Recommendations:**
- Mission and Vision Statement
  - Findings
  - Recommendations:
    - Merge, Replace, Reconfigure or Expand Existing Entities
    - Identify Overlaps & Gaps; Define Coordination
    - Identify Investigative & Monitoring Needs
    - Determine Relationship of Juvenile & Adult
    - Define Commission Structure, Authority, Responsibilities
- (16-4986)

**Member Osuna reviewed the composition of the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group's (POCWG) draft recommendations and reiterated that the recommendations are currently in draft form and is a living document, fluid and not final. Member Osuna indicated that the recommendations will be comprised of a recommended Mission/Vision Statement, a section with "Findings" which are matters discovered through research, and are outside of the scope of the POCWG's charge by the Board of Supervisors, and the five Sections as follows:**

1. Possibility of merging, replacing, reconfiguring, or expanding of the existing entities that currently oversee functions and process of the Probation Department;
2. Identifying overlaps and gaps, and defining coordination to eliminate overlaps and close gaps in the oversight of the Probation Department;
3. Identifying investigative and monitoring needs relative to the Probation Camps, Halls, and Group Homes;
4. Determining the relationship between the juvenile and the adult probation processes and functions. Should the entities be separated within the Probation Department into two divisions; and
5. Defining the Commission structure, authority and responsibilities.

The following members of the public addressed the Working Group:

Marjan Goudarzi, Homeboy Industries, addressed the Working group and inquired about what type of Mental Health Services will the Oversight Commission address for juvenile probationers? What type of oversight will be made available for the issue of overmedicating youths with psychotropic meds? Ms. Goudarzi recalled an incident whereby she witnessed the overmedicating of a youth in Camp Mount Rocky with psychotropic meds and the issue was never appropriately addressed. The youth was shot and killed by police approximately six to eight months after his release. This young male, while at Camp Mount Rocky, was on psychotropic meds, and suffered from severe mood swings. In response to question by Member Osuna, Ms. Goudarzi responded that she had no contact with the young man after being released from camp and that she had no information on the re-entry services that were being provided to him.

Ms. Goudarzi also inquired as to what will be the role of the Oversight Commission relative to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Departments of Health and Mental Health, and will the Oversight Commission design policy for entities acting under the authority of the Probation Department?

Ms. Goudarzi recommended that juveniles have an agency where they can have the ability to file grievances and self-report through family members or anyone else that they trust, without fear of reprisal. Ms. Goudarzi

recommended that the same model used for the rebuilding of Camp Kilpatrick be used to rebuild outdated facilities. Facilities ought to be modern and forward thinking and the Oversight Commission should have a say on rebuild designs. Ms. Goudarzi recommended that LACOE and interacting Departments have similar goals. Currently youth are confused because LACOE and Probation have different processes and rules. Vision and Mission should be similar so that the youths don't receive conflicting signals while in the classrooms vs. Camp protocol. Ms. Goudarzi suggested that the language in the recommendations be stronger and more definitive rather than suggestive. Ms. Goudarzi questioned what the reference on page 8 of the recommendations "...meaningful enforcement mechanism...." means, and suggested that there needs to be a defined meaning to the phrase and not have it left up to interpretation. Ms. Goudarzi recommended that the Probation Department develop a liaison with Continuation Schools to enhance services at these schools, and that there be oversight for re-entry services being provided.

Member Osuna asked Ms. Goudarzi to provide her recommendations in writing, and submit them to the Working Group's comment section on their Website.

Marcos Gonzales from Homeboy Industries addressed the Working Group and suggested that the language in the Working Group's recommendations be more concrete and stronger and provided an example on page 7 of the recommendations under the Mental Health Services and Counseling Section. Mr. Gonzales questioned whether services will be provided by Probation staff, or be contracted out? Member Osuna responded that services are currently being outsourced through the Health and Mental Health Departments.

Mr. Gonzales recommended having licensed-clinician staff in the Probation Department and ensure training is provided to staff to mitigate the gaps in these types of services, and also that restorative justice services be in place. In response to a question by Member Osuna, Mr. Gonzales responded that the youths that he comes in contact with report that resources are very limited. For example, youths are not receiving housing services through Probation. Mr. Gonzales recommended that Probation Officers be more flexible in their availability as some youths have difficulty in taking time off from school or work to meet with their Probation Officer at the time solely specified by their Probation Officers.

Antoinette Cobb from Homeboy Industries addressed the Working Group and questioned what the outreach has been relative to juveniles on active parole. Member Osuna indicated that probationers have attended Town Halls and the Probation Oversight Commission Working Group meetings to provide recommendations and share their experiences while on probation. Member Osuna indicated that the public's recommendations were being taken into consideration by the Working Group.

Avelardo Hector Verdugo from Homeboy Industries addressed the Working Group and indicated that Probation Officers and law enforcement did not clearly understand the success of Homeboy in having opposing gang members interacting with one another in a peaceable manner. They seemed to have a perception that individuals that congregated at Homeboy Industries were "up to no good." The perception, however, has changed over the years and law enforcement and Probation Officers are constantly being invited to view for themselves the "miracle" of Homeboy Industries. Mr. Verdugo stated that he encourages unannounced visits so others can see the operations and services of Homeboy Industries.

Member Meredith inquired if Mr. Verdugo knew of any viable Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that had difficulty in receiving funding for their services. Mr. Verdugo indicated that it is a frustrating issue when good CBOs cannot be utilized due to the lack of funding. Mr. Verdugo indicated that there are many such CBOs struggling due to the lack of funding.

Vinny Shiraldi, Senior Research Fellow, Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management, addressed the Working Group Members and advised that the he will be making a presentation to the Working Group the following day, Wednesday, October 26, 2016. Mr. Shiraldi questioned if the Working Group had taken a position yet on the separation of the juvenile and adult probation. Member Meredith informed that the Working Group is currently exploring the financial impacts of a separation or keeping both under one department but with two separate bureaus; and will work on recommending a concept of separating the two entities.

Dr. Patricia M. Bennett, Executive Director, RDA, thanked the Working Group for their work and for holding the Town Halls and informed the Working Group Members that RDA is currently doing an evaluation of a program designed by the District Attorney. Also, over the past few weeks, RDA has been reviewing a multitude of reports that have been done over the years with no visible follow-up on the recommendations.

**Dr. Bennett questioned as to how RDA can ensure that their report to the Board of Supervisors is not just another report that doesn't net any action. Ms. Bennett indicated that it will take 12-months to complete their report and wants to ensure that their work is not in vain.**

**Member Osuna indicated that the best way to ensure that recommendations are acted upon by the Board is through public support and advocacy.**

**Attachments:**    [Recommendations-As of 10-18-16](#)

4. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Working Group on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Working Group. (16-4988)

**There were none.**

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment. (16-4989)

**Member Osuna adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.**